

Serial No.: 10/696,710  
Art Unit: 2614  
Inventor: Takuya SEKIGUCHI et al.

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### REMARKS

Claims 41-50 were originally filed. In this Preliminary Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 41-50 and added new claims 51-55. Accordingly, claims 51-55 will be pending herein upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination on the merits. No new matter has been added.

Applicant respectfully requests a favorable action on the merits of the pending claims. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

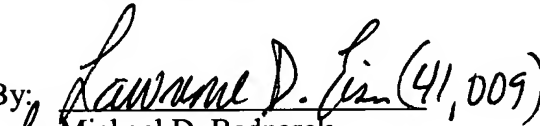
SHAW PITTMAN LLP  
1650 Tysons Boulevard  
McLean, VA 22102  
Tel: 703/770-7900

Date: April 28, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

TAKUYA SEKIGUCHI ET AL.

By:

  
Michael D. Bednarek  
Registration No. 32,329

MDB/LDE/ggb